



SUSAN STACK  
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Human Services Commission

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

HOCINE BAOUCHE  
YALE CANTOR  
TERESA CAVANAGH  
HELEN FILLORAMO  
SUSAN HANNIGAN  
ANNE NICKERSON  
RICHARD PETRUCCI

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

#### Monday, March 10, 2014

#### Minutes of the Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Sue Stack, Chairman at 6:06 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Yale Cantor, Sue Stack, Helen Filloramo, Anne Nickerson, Hocine Baouche, Teresa Cavanagh, Sue Hannigan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motioned (Y. Cantor), Seconded (H. Filloramo) and passed by those present to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The extreme cold days during the last couple of months have placed a strain on our fuel bank. We are getting more requests for additional oil deliveries. We are also using the Tri-Town Fuel Bank and Operation Fuel. Additional funds were to become available to the State for heating costs but those funds have not trickled down to participants. Utility heated households are in the same predicament when the winter moratorium is over in April, these CL&P and Yankee Gas customers will have high utility bills and shut off notices. Instead of closing the fuel bank on March 17<sup>th</sup> we will continue to stay open until the weather is warmer or funds are exhausted.

There is a very good possibility that Recreation and Human Services may move into the 16 Main Street address while renovations are being made to 31 Arbor Way. Not sure how that will work out and for how long. Projections are to return to Arbor Commons in the Fall.

The senior center continues to go through the soft transitional stage. We are still awaiting telephone service. Not having phones has been a public relations nightmare that will be hard to live down. Plans are under way to finalize the program for the open house scheduled for Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The contractor and architect are finishing up the final punch list so that payment can be issued. Two part-time custodians have been hired and trained by the Department of Public Works. Week night activities have resumed including cards. No weekend activities have been scheduled.

The First Selectman, senior center director and staff have been meeting with the human services director to formulate policy and procedure guidelines for the use of the new senior center and enjoyment of the center. On Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> the Meriden Senior Center will be hosting a roundtable on senior center best practices: procedures and policies.

This is the same day that training takes place in Wethersfield for the Renters Rebate Program. The time is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year the governor is proposing legislation to reinstate the program for all those who are eligible versus the "Sunset Law" that currently exists. The law states that if you were not on the program in 2011 or got off the program after that date (2011) you are not eligible ever again.

**SENIOR CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Commission will wait to get a final accounting of funds raised and expenditures from the finance officer before recommending to the Board of Selectmen that the goals of the Senior Center Steering Committee have been met with the exception of fund raising which is an ongoing project. An advisory board or commission will be in place to continue to advise the senior center director on issues and concerns from the user group. Some guidelines are needed before furthering this recommendation.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 has been completed and will be presented to the Board of Finance tomorrow night, March 11<sup>th</sup> as a draft because the finance officer has not had a chance to review all the budgets. In the Human Services Budget increases are in the salary account, Hockanum Valley Transportation, and the Health Department. Small increases at or below \$500 are in the fuel bank, Interval House and Municipal Agent. Of course the largest increase of \$140,000 is in the senior center account representing utility increases, staffing and the addition of two part-time staffers, rent for five months at 16 Church Street and contractual services including cleaning services and programs/activities. The proposed kitchen service is scheduled to open this Fall and represents \$20,000 of which \$10,000 is expected revenue.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Youth Services is considering contracting out services for facebook. Recreation is currently testing this venue out as a contractual service.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motioned (H. Filloramo), Seconded (T. Cavanagh) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 6:50 P.M.

Submitted by,

Doris R. Crayton,  
Acting Secretary